

## Fact Sheet

December 2003

# No Further Action Proposed For The Sand Blast Grit Disposal Area and Perin's Shop Concrete Sump at New United Motor Manufacturing Inc.



**FREMONT, CALIFORNIA**

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Boards and  
Departments within  
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Environmental  
Protection Agency.  
The Department's  
mission is to restore,  
protect and enhance  
the environment,  
to ensure public health,  
environmental  
quality and  
economic vitality,  
by regulating  
hazardous waste,  
conducting and  
overseeing  
cleanups, and  
developing  
and promoting  
pollution prevention.*

State of California



California  
Environmental  
Protection Agency



## Areas at NUMMI Have Been Cleaned

The California Department of Toxic Substances Control (DTSC) has prepared this fact sheet to tell you about cleanup activities that have occurred at New United Motor Manufacturing Inc. (NUMMI).

Two areas were identified at NUMMI that potentially had hazardous materials. These areas are the Sand Blast Grit Disposal Area and the Perin's Shop Concrete Sump. (See facility layout on page 3.) As a result of sampling and cleanup activities, DTSC is prepared to issue a letter called a "No Further Action" for those two areas.

DTSC is the regulatory agency providing oversight for cleanup of those two areas.

This fact sheet summarizes why we looked at these two areas and how the sampling and investigation were done. You are invited to review the environmental documents that give further details on the cleanup and sampling activities, and to give us your comments.

### Public Comment Period

**Starts: December 15, 2003**

**Ends: January 30, 2004**

**If you have comments on the No Further Action Determination at the Sand Blast Grit Disposal Area and the Concrete Sump (Perin's Shop), please send your written comment to:**

**Cherry Padilla  
DTSC Berkeley Office  
700 Heinz Avenue,  
Suite 200  
Berkeley, CA 94710  
[cpadilla@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:cpadilla@dtsc.ca.gov)**

## **SITE DESCRIPTION AND BACKGROUND**

NUMMI is located at 45500 Fremont Blvd. in Fremont, California.

In the early 1960s, the General Motors Corporation (GMC), General Motors Assembly Division, Fremont Plant was constructed and began operations. In the mid-1980s, GMC entered into a joint manufacturing operation with Toyota Corporation of Japan for the assembly of cars and trucks. The joint venture, the New United Motor Manufacturing, Inc. (NUMMI) has been operated by Toyota at the GMC plant.

The NUMMI plant is located near single and multiple family housing as well as industrial and commercial businesses. The plant lies directly between Interstate 880 to the west and a railroad siding to the east (see map below). Interstate 680 is another major highway to the east of the plant site.

Groundwater can be found beneath the facility, in a shallow clay water-bearing zone, at depths ranging from about seven to ten feet below the ground surface. At the area where the sand blast grit was placed, groundwater lies fifteen feet beneath the soil. The water under the facility is not used for drinking water or for agricultural use.

## **NUMMI INVESTIGATED THE SITE FOR HAZARDOUS MATERIALS**

NUMMI is required to do a site-wide assessment and investigation. The assessment, called a RCRA Facility Assessment (also called an RFA), looks at the historical uses of the site and determines if there may be areas where hazardous chemicals could exist at harmful levels. The RFA, completed in January 1999, highlighted two areas which may need further investigation. Those two areas are

the Sand Blast Grit Disposal Area and the Perin's Shop Concrete Sump. A facility layout is on page 3. The document that details how the investigation shall be conducted is called the RCRA Facility Investigation, or RFI. The RFI for these two areas was completed in September, 2000.



## **SAND BLAST GRIT DISPOSAL AREA**

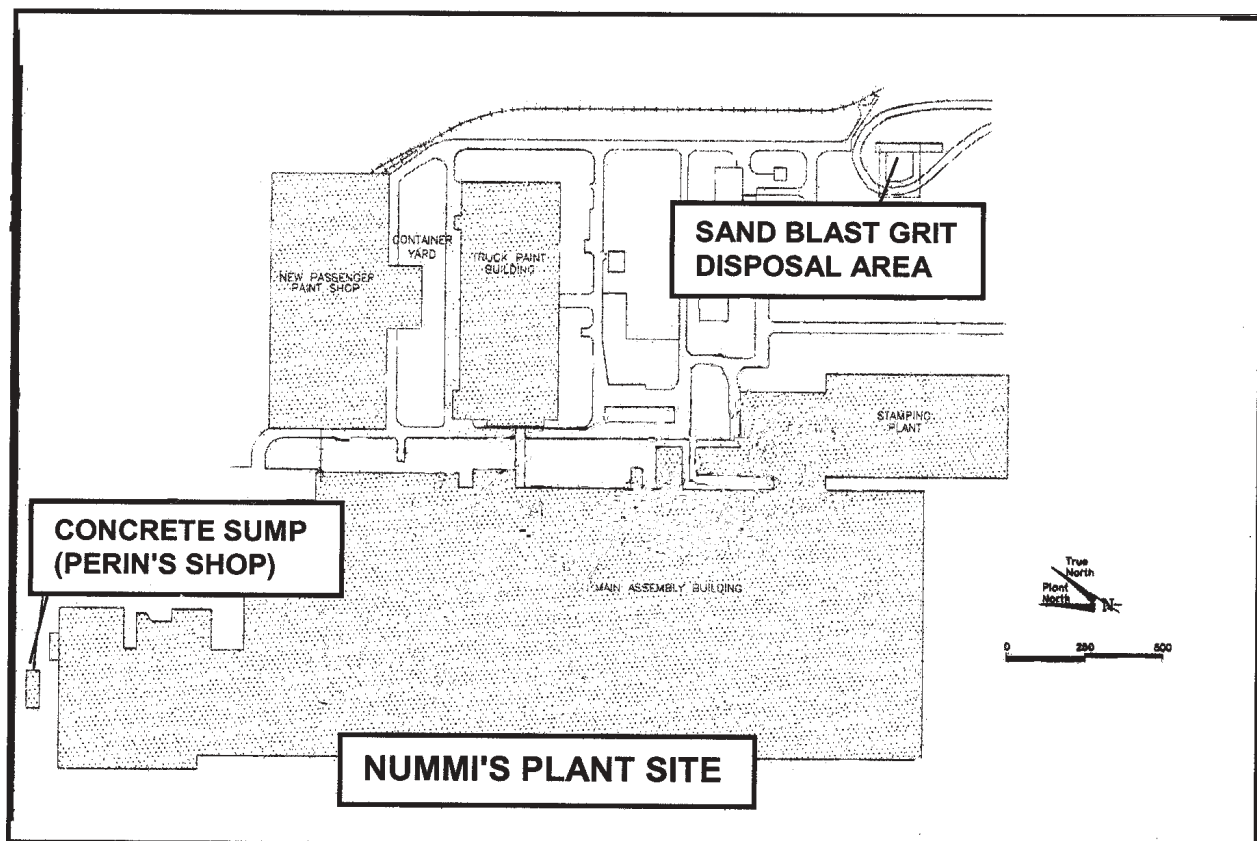
In 1991, used sand blasting grit was placed on a 90 ft. by 70 ft. area of bare soil, amidst broken concrete rubble. This disposal area is currently enclosed by NUMMI plant's Test Track. Sand blasting grit contains nickel and chromium which, at high levels, can be hazardous to people. The Sand Blast Grit Disposal Area was identified in the RFA as an area that may have released hazardous waste into the environment. Sand blast grit was later on removed and shipped off-site to an appropriate disposal facility.

In September 1995, after the removal of the sand blast grit, soil samples were taken up to 3.5 ft. below ground surface and analyzed for nickel and chromium. The results showed that these metals had not migrated in the soil, and the soil had been cleaned to levels that are not harmful to people and the environment. The levels of these metals detected were below the naturally occurring levels expected in California soils.

## **CONCRETE SUMP (PERIN'S SHOP)**

Perin's Shop Concrete Pump is located at the maintenance shop. It is a ten inch unlined concrete containment that served as a catch for the sludge generated from washing vehicles and equipment at NUMMI. These activities possibly started in the early 1960s. Potentially harmful chemicals from washing vehicles and equipment include volatile organic compounds such as chloroform, and total petroleum hydrocarbons such as gasoline, diesel and motor oil.

The concrete sump was cleaned and soil and groundwater samples were taken for metals, volatile organic compounds (VOCs) and total petroleum hydrocarbons (TPHs) analysis. No VOCs or TPHs were detected from the soil and groundwater samples. The residual levels of metals detected in soil and groundwater samples were below harmful levels. The RFI Report concluded that there is no evidence of release of harmful chemicals to soil or groundwater at Perin's Shop Concrete Sump.



## **DTSC PROPOSES NO FURTHER ACTION AT BOTH LOCATIONS**

The RFI Report, which documents the investigation, showed that the groundwater and soil have not been adversely impacted by the activities in the Sand Blast Grit Disposal Area and the Concrete Sump. The findings of the RFI Report are as follows:

- √ Harmful chemicals at the Sand Blast Grit Disposal Area have not migrated in a downward or outward direction.
- √ The levels of nickel and chromium at the Sand Blast Grit Area are lower than residential health-risk based standards and therefore do not pose a threat to human health.
- √ There is no evidence of any release of harmful chemicals from the sump at Perin's Shop.
- √ The levels of metals detected at the Sand Blast Grit Disposal Area and the Perin's Shop Concrete Sump are below the naturally occurring levels expected in California soils.

DTSC is proposing to issue a "No Further Action" (NFA) letter for the Sand Blast Grit Disposal Area and Perin's Shop Concrete Sump. DTSC is also holding a 45-day public comment period prior to issuing a decision on the proposed NFA. A response to all comments will be mailed to anyone who submits comments.

## **HOW TO SUBMIT COMMENTS**

You may submit written comments by mail or email. Send written comments, postmarked or emailed **no later than January 30, 2004**, to:

Cherry Padilla  
DTSC Project Manager  
700 Heinz Avenue, Suite 200  
Berkeley, CA 94710  
Email: [cpadilla@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:cpadilla@dtsc.ca.gov)

## **INFORMATION REPOSITORIES**

All documents related to the cleanup activities at NUMMI's Sand Blast Grit Disposal Area and the Concrete Sump are located at either of these locations:

DTSC File Room, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
700 Heinz Avenue  
Berkeley, California 94710  
(510) 540-3800  
(Please call for appointment)

Fremont Main Library Reference Desk  
2400 Stevenson Boulevard  
Fremont, California 94538  
(510) 745-1400

## **FOR MORE INFORMATION**

If you have any questions regarding this matter please contact either:

Cherry Padilla, Project Manager  
phone: (510) 540-3967  
email: [Cpadilla@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Cpadilla@dtsc.ca.gov) or

Lora Barrett, Public Participation Specialist  
phone: toll-free at (866) 495-5651  
email: [Lbarrett@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Lbarrett@dtsc.ca.gov)

## **FOR MEDIA INQUIRIES**

Angela Blanchette  
Public Information Officer  
phone: (510) 540-3742  
email: [Ablanche@dtsc.ca.gov](mailto:Ablanche@dtsc.ca.gov)

## **NOTICE TO HEARING IMPAIRED INDIVIDUALS**

TDD users can obtain additional information about the site by using the California State Relay Service (1-888-877-5378) to reach the Public Participation Specialist Lora Barrett, at (866) 495-5651.